Engendered Food: An Example of dang-guei (Angelica Sinensis)

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ABSTRACT

There are abundant of publications on the studies of body, gender, and material by both world and Taiwanese anthropologists. A system of diet therapy under the instruction of hygiene dietetics is unique to Chinese foodways. The author chooses Angelica sinensis as a subject to trace the medical records of its being engendered by traditional Chinese medical doctors and by ordinary people. Fieldwork information collected from Dajia Town, Taizhong County will also be discussed.

Sex is not about biology nor is gender about social-culture. Sex and gender are interconnected and interpenetrated. This article follows C. Geertz’ and S. Errington’s idea of unfinished human nature, will discuss how Chinese women learn their “biological” body through the media of the dang-guei.

Keywords: hygiene dietetics, engendered food, engendered medicine, engendered body, medicalized menstruation

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